



Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church

ALTERNATIVE GIVING CATALOG

2023





2023 Alternative Giving Catalog Presented by the Justice Team

In response to our call as Christians to transform the world, the Justice Team at Glenn begins by educating its members and others about the root causes of unfairness and injustice in our society. It champions strong social systems that help struggling people overcome adversity and live with purpose, and it advocates for change in laws, policies and systems that result in injustice. At the same time, the Justice Team works to create opportunities for personal connection with those who are struggling or suffering injustice in ways that affirm our mutual humanity and dignity. Gifts given through the Alternative Giving Catalog enable us to support other groups engaged in similar work. This year's Catalog focuses on gifts to organizations that work to feed the hungry, assist the unhoused, welcome the refugee, advocate for social justice, support global education, and be stewards of the environment.

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On the Wings of a Dove

Last Christmas, a long-time Glenn member noted that of all the ornaments on Glenn Memorial's Advent Christmon tree, the white doves brought her the most joy. Perhaps it was their purity and fidelity that sparked her joy. With their ample, strong wings, they fly down to earth to remind us of God's love - and then soar to heaven to perch beside the Almighty. Songwriter Bob Ferguson got it right: "He sent down His love on the wings of a snow-white dove.

Purity, Fidelity, Strength ... Reminders of God's Love

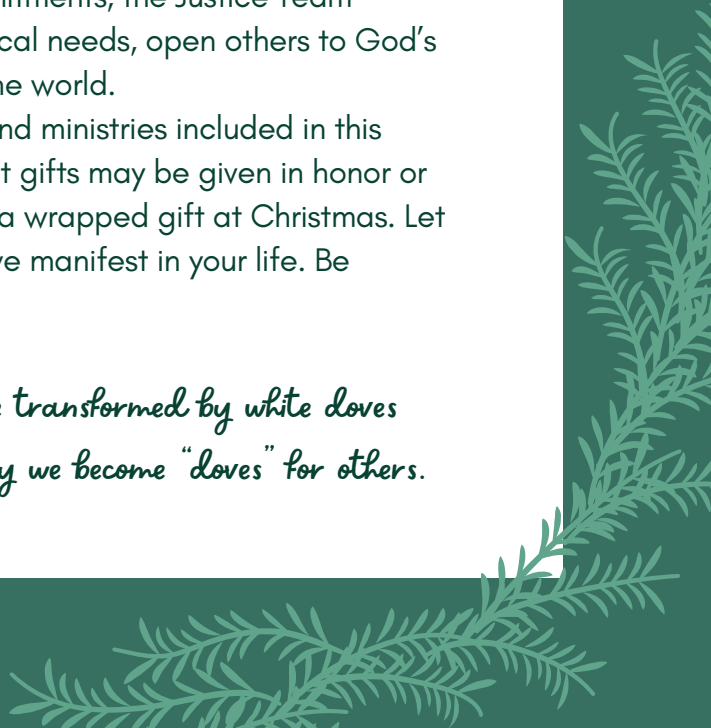
Too many people are unaware of the doves in their midst. Yet, these snow-white beauties hover quietly nearby - assuring us of God's presence and steadfast love, especially in difficult times. Some people are too fraught or too lonely to notice. Others, too busy or too numb to hear the fluttering of their wings. It often takes a touch of kindness to open hearts to their healing presence.

Many who have participated in Glenn's outreach ministries have witnessed doves in the spaces where they have served. They have seen personal connection, compassion, and hope melt away layers of anxiety, grief, and loneliness - quickly revealing God's love for them and bringing peace and joy to their heavy hearts.

Glenn's Justice Team leads the congregation in bringing refuge to the uprooted, food to the hungry, and shelter to the homeless. It also keeps Glenn mindful of long-standing commitments to social and racial justice, environmental stewardship and global education. In identifying avenues for service that address these priorities and commitments, the Justice Team facilitates congregational efforts to meet critical needs, open others to God's love and contribute to the transformation of the world.

We trust that you will support the missions and ministries included in this year's Alternative Giving Catalog. Such Advent gifts may be given in honor or memory of a loved one or friend - or in lieu of a wrapped gift at Christmas. Let your gift be an acknowledgement of God's love manifest in your life. Be someone's "dove."

During the Advent Season, may we all be transformed by white doves spreading hope, joy, love and peace, and may we become "doves" for others.





CAMBODIA METHODIST MISSION

Through its Alternative Giving Catalog, Glenn has provided key support for 60 children served by the Children's Ministry for Street Children in Phnom Penh. This ministry serves young children, grades 1-3, who once begged on the streets to support themselves and their families - instead of going to school. Helen de Leon Camarce, Glenn's missionary contact in Cambodia, asks for continuing support for this work, which is now serving 80 children, as well as modest funding for a new effort.



Serving young children who once begged on the streets.

The Methodist Church in Cambodia recently opened a school in northeast Cambodia - in the Mondulkiri region. Sparsely populated and mountainous, the region is home to ten tribal, indigenous groups whose children lack sufficient educational services. The school's enrollment is 13, and growing.

The goal for catalog-giving to Cambodia's mission is \$2,200 for school uniforms, backpacks and supplies for the children in Phnom Penh, and \$125 for backpacks and school supplies for students in Mondulkiri.

Glenn's history with missions in Cambodia stretches back about 20 years, to missionaries Marilyn and Joseph Chan, who attended Glenn during their GBGM missionary training in Atlanta. Glenn supported the Chans through the general budget until they retired - and now supports Helen Camarce. These faithful stewards have kept Glenn informed about and engaged in their work. Marilyn and Joseph made several trips to Glenn over the years, and Helen greeted Glenn in person this summer with a message of thanksgiving and hope.



ECUADOR METHODIST MISSION

Sara Flores serves as Glenn's missionary contact in Ecuador. She, along with her husband Dakin Cook, who was also a missionary, has been faithful in apprising Glenn of the needs of parishes, pastors and children in Ecuador. Dakin has roots at Glenn, having launched his career in South American ministries following a Glenn mission trip to Bolivia. Sara and Dakin visited Glenn this past summer, spending time with Dakin's parents and Glenn members, Rev. Douglas and Virginia Cook, and sharing their work in Ecuador with the congregation.



Merging school and local parish support.

Glenn's recent mission focus in Ecuador has been on children's ministries at the Methodist School El Sembrado of Pastocalle, and on the needs of local pastors. El Sembrado is located in the parish with the highest percentage of indigenous people. Methodism has been growing fast in Ecuador: from 16 to 20 congregations and seven new mission initiatives. Through the general church budget, Glenn provides the tuition for 20 girls and boys at the school and for five university students. Glenn's general budget also supports a portion of Sara's missionary salary.

This year, Sara requested support for a special need that addresses the school and local parish. She is raising funds to support the salary of a local parish pastor who also leads Bible classes at the El Sembrado school. Sara hopes to raise \$7,000, the supplement needed to augment the offerings of the local church for the pastor's salary. The Justice Team seeks contributions through the Catalog for this purpose.



GEORGIA APPLESEED CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

Georgia Appleseed advances equity and justice by addressing systemic issues that affect its community's most marginalized children. Through research, advocacy, and practical solutions, it keeps children in school, in stable, healthy housing and out of the criminal justice system. Georgia Appleseed's See Me initiative lifts the voices of Georgia's children and youth in foster care through artwork. See Me identifies young artists in foster care and commissions their original artwork.



GEORGIA APPLESEED
Center for Law & Justice

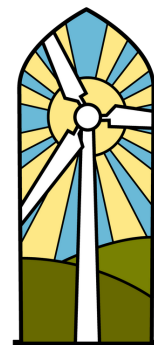


Healing my Heart
Anonymous

Through their art, these youth tell their communities about themselves, their challenges, and joys. See Me provides young artists with financial payments, as commissions, to support their artistic efforts, providing them with a measure of financial independence and demonstrating to them that their artistic contributions are valued. You may visit the [Georgia Appleseed website](#) to see some of the artists' work and hear their stories. Donations will directly support new young artists and showcase their creativity and resilience.

GEORGIA INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light engages communities of faith in the stewardship of creation as a religious expression of faithfulness and a response to global climate change, resource depletion, environmental injustice, pollution and other disruptions in creation. GIPL works closely with congregations as they assess their own environmental stewardship. Glenn has drawn on GIPL for expert advice and has not been disappointed. Glenn's environmental stewardship group organized a Green Team in affiliation with GIPL and remains engaged. Of particular significance to the Justice Team are the environmental audits that GIPL conducts for local faith communities. Gifts to GIPL will provide free or reduced-cost audits to churches that are not be able to afford the audit process and contribute to grants to these churches to ensure the churches can act upon the audit's recommendations.



*Stewardship
of Creation*



LOST-N-FOUND YOUTH

Lost-n-Found Youth provides support for Atlanta’s unhoused LGBTQ+ youth, ages 18 to 25. Its ambitious goal is to end homelessness among this group. The organization supports a youth drop-in center, where lunch is served daily, and two transitional houses for 16 youth, where breakfasts and dinners are available. With funding from the 2022 Alternative Giving Catalog, Glenn’s Justice Team began providing Lost-n-Found’s clients with meals in early 2023: monthly lunches, a Mother’s Day brunch, Memorial Day and Labor Day picnics, and a Halloween dinner—and grocery runs for the transition homes’ pantries.



FINDING SAFETY & SHELTER
FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

Justice Team members have witnessed the outpouring of joy and gratitude at these meals, as the youth develop camaraderie with fellow clients and staff. The Justice Team hopes to continue the meals-ministry into 2024 with gifts made through the catalog. In addition, it seeks funds for LNFY to purchase 7-day MARTA Breeze passes for the youth to meet their transportation needs: from their transitional home to the youth center, training, internships, counseling, job interviews, employment, and medical appointments.

Currently, LNFY depends largely on individual donors for MARTA passes for its clients -- bought at full price in small quantities. Donations fall far short of the need. LNFY has applied to MARTA for membership in its program for homeless shelters, which offers half-price fares on bulk purchases of cards for client use. LNFY fully qualifies for the program, has applied, and expects acceptance soon.

Once accepted into the MARTA program, LNFY will create a new fund to hold donations for purchasing Breeze passes at the new rate. Glenn’s gift will seed the new fund and provide for the first bulk half-priced purchases early in 2024. LNFY is committed to showcasing the benefits of the passes and the need for wide-ranging donations to sustain the fund. One hundred 7-day bulk-purchased, reduced-price passes cost about \$1,100. These 100 passes, at half-price would provide 16 youth with 6 weeks of transportation. If LNFY happens not to be accepted into the MARTA program this year, it will use Glenn’s funding to purchase MARTA passes at full-price for the clients.





RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

From its founding in 1984, the Reconciling Ministry Network has promoted inclusion for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the policy and practice of The United Methodist Church. RMN has been the consistent voice of love and hope in response to widespread homophobia and injustice within the Church.



Now, nearly 40 years later, the Reconciling movement spans four continents, 1,000+ churches, and 40,000+ individuals. The Reconciling Ministries Network strives to change congregations and communities through grassroots organizing, provide resources to churches, educate people, advocate for change at the denomination level, offer pastoral care, and help faithful people strive for reconciliation.

Faithful people promoting inclusion

In 2024, Glenn UMC will mark 10 years as a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network. Over the years, Glenn members have engaged in RMN workshops and formed a Draw the Circle Wide caucus to focus local efforts on bringing love, hospitality and justice to all God's people. The 10-year milestone is important, not just as a time to assess our accomplishments, but also to recognize how much work remains.

In April 2024, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church will meet in Charlotte, North Carolina. Among the issues it will consider is United Methodist Church policy related to LGBTQ+ persons as expressed in the Church's Book of Discipline. The Justice Team requests gifts for the Network to mark our anniversary as a member of the Network, but more importantly to ensure that the Network is strong as it prepares to be an advocate for love and justice, particularly at General Conference.



TEAM LIBERTAD

Team Libertad is an Atlanta-based agency that values compassion for people seeking asylum in the United States who have been detained and released by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). These people are on their way to the homes of sponsors, friends and family across the United States. Team Libertad strives to offer a welcoming presence and helpful hand to those dropped-off at the Atlanta airport after a stay at Georgia's Stewart Detention Center. By mid-October, Team Libertad had welcomed more than 1,600 asylum seekers in 2023 alone - from 14 nations: Albania to Vietnam and Ecuador to Uzbekistan.



Members of Glenn's Justice Team have volunteered with Team Libertad to welcome people entering - for them - a strange land. Fully cleared for entry, they are seeking a new life and are often grieving the loss of their previous lives. They welcome simple gifts of compassion at the airport: supplies, clothes, food and navigation assistance. [Check out the blog](#) on Glenn's website to read directly the experience of one Glenn volunteer who witnessed the tragedy of missing phone charger cables, confiscated by immigration officers. Silent phones mean the dire loss of contact with family and companions. She also witnessed the indignity of needing such simple things as shoelaces, also confiscated, and replacements for worn out socks -- and the gratitude for people who offered a helping hand.

Gifts for Team Libertad will provide hygiene kits, water, food, clothing, bags for storing personal items, phone chargers and phones, and other items of immediate need.



TRINITY TABLE

For some 90 years Trinity Table, a ministry of Trinity UMC, has provided food for the hungry every Sunday in a hospitable setting that affirms the dignity and worth of those in need. Glenn Memorial and Peachtree Road UMCs became engaged with Trinity Table in the 1970's as white-flight threatened the viability of Trinity and its food ministry. Yet, only during the Covid pandemic did Trinity Table pause; even so, it managed to provide to-go bagged meals each week.



*Supporting those who
dine at the table*

Once the pandemic subsided, Trinity UMC faced challenges. Its congregation continued to shrink, as did its budget. Yet, Trinity prioritized Trinity Table above other programs and services, knowing that it was the only consistent source of free food on Sundays in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. And, the church and its supporters managed to expand services, offering a clothes-closet and a mobile shower as well.

As Trinity UMC faces closure as an active congregation, plans are underway for Trinity Table to continue in place. North Georgia Conference Bishop Robin Dease envisions the transformation of the Trinity UMC Church facility into a home for a broad array of community services - thereby honoring the abiding service of Trinity and partner churches like Glenn and ensuring that important social services remain in downtown Atlanta.

In celebration of Glenn's connection to Trinity Table and the Bishop's ambitious vision for Trinity's historic site, your gifts will support the needs of those who dine at the Table and prefer to live without walls. The Justice Team looks forward to transforming your gifts into winter gear for this population: waterproof sleeping bags (at about \$19.00 each), basic clothing, and food supplies.



WELLROOT YOUTH

Wellroot Family Services assists children and youth in foster care and young adults, ages 18–21, who are transitioning from foster care to adulthood. Wellroot offers ongoing life skills development, community-based housing, and education and career support. Glenn Church has been closely linked to Wellroot over the years.



Wellroot's history reaches back 150 years, fifty years before the founding of Glenn Memorial. It was first known as the Decatur Orphans' Home, more recently as The United Methodist Children's Home. About five years ago, it transitioned from housing children to offering services for foster families and youth and was renamed Wellroot. It continues as an agency of The United Methodist Church in North Georgia. Long-time Glenn members remember the annual offering for the children's home. The needs of children and youth at Wellroot today are no less compelling than they have been in the past. In fact, about 10,000 children were in foster care in Georgia in 2021.

For some time, the Glenn School has raised funds for Wellroot's foster program for children. This year the Justice Team requests gifts that support the youth: to aid their foster families and to assist the youth as they transition to independent living. The needs include: new cold-weather clothing, toiletries, hair care items, and food staples to supplement pantries.

Gifts will also support a "casserole ministry" for families of youth in foster care. Wellroot counselors often bring a donated homemade or purchased casserole to the families they serve. Over a shared meal, foster parents, youth and counselors work together on identifying and providing the youth and foster parents with the training and support they need.



WEST ATLANTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE

The West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) is a community-based non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life within the West Atlanta Watershed by protecting, preserving, and restoring the community's natural resources.



*Building a
Cleaner,
Greener,
Healthier &
More
Sustainable
West Atlanta*

WAWA represents African American neighborhoods in Northwest and Southwest Atlanta, surrounding the Proctor, Utoy and Sandy Creek Watersheds. These areas are inundated with environmental stressors but have sparse representation at environmental decision-making tables.

In partnership with the City of Atlanta Bureau of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, WAWA operates the Outdoor Activity Center, a 26-acre urban forest preserve and nature center where it works to educate communities on the importance of environmental stewardship and justice.

The Glenn Youth Program is planning on a day's adventure at the Outdoor Activity Center this spring to learn first-hand about protecting the environment and advocating for justice in remediating and conserving it. Glenn's youth program requests gifts through the catalog so that other youth may experience a similar educational opportunity, even if their schools cannot afford it. Specifically, your gift to the Alliance will be used to provide day-long outdoor education for students attending Title I schools in Atlanta. Glenn's donations will be targeted to pay for fees and for expenses incurred for transportation and lunch. The Alliance fee for field trips is \$15.00 per seven students - or \$45.00 for classes of 21 students.



ZIMBABWE SCHOOL SUPPORT

Glenn funds scholarships for 69 students in the rural Munyarari region of Zimbabwe. The students are enrolled in the local primary school or high school, both missions of The United Methodist Church. Although Zimbabwe's Ministry of Education promises to provide education for all children, its funding is inadequate. Schools must charge for tuition and supplies – but families of impoverished children cannot afford these expenses. Glenn scholarships help overcome financial barriers to education for many families in the area.

While Glenn's annual budget funds these scholarships, the Alternative Giving Catalog pays for scholar uniforms and general school improvements. Uniforms cost about \$60 per student. Glenn scholars report that having school uniforms means they fit in with their classmates at school. School improvement projects that Glenn has funded in the past include building a wing on a classroom, establishing a computer lab, furnishing a science teaching facility, and installing fish ponds to promote science instruction and environmental stewardship.



*Overcoming financial
barriers to education for
children in Zimbabwe*

The schools have requested \$5,000 to support two new school projects in 2024. The primary school seeks to launch a beekeeper program at a cost of \$2,000. It would support the school's science and agriculture instruction and provide the community with honey, a valuable commodity in the area. Sales of honey would help fund classroom materials. Zimbabwe's agriculture and education ministries encourage the project and provide the schools with programmatic guidance.

The high school requests \$3,000 to complete renovation of the science facility that Glenn helped build two years ago. In order to teach chemistry in the labs, the school needs to outfit them with additional fixtures and plumbing. Chemistry is required in many programs pursued by Glenn scholars. The education ministry has declined to provide a chemistry teacher for the high school until the work is completed.



ADDITIONAL GIVING THROUGH UMCOR - GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Global Ministries is the global mission, relief, and development agency of The United Methodist Church. It is active in over 100 countries. Global Ministries oversees the Advance, the mission giving channel of The United Methodist Church, which supports 750 mission and ministry projects world-wide, including 200 missionaries. It also supports the United Methodist Committee on Relief - UMCOR, the humanitarian relief and development arm of the Church. All gifts given through the Advance are directed to the project designated by the donor. Global Ministries' and UMCOR's operating funds are provided by apportioned dollars of the World Service Fund and the annual Church-wide offering.

The projects listed below align well with the priorities set by Glenn's Justice Team. Gifts to them may be made through [Glenn's Giving page](#), accessible through the QR code below. A full list of Advance partner projects can be found on the [Global Ministries and UMCOR website](#).

Environmental Sustainability: Responding to the United Methodist call for global action on the climate crisis, this ministry fosters the integration of environmental sustainability into every aspect of mission: elimination of green-house gasses, implementing renewable energy projects, energy efficiency strategies, and waste reduction. (Advance #3021591)



*Preparing Shelters for Ukrainians in
Czeck Republic*



Food aid in Nigeria

UMCOR-Where Most Needed: From the 1940's, UMCOR has provided humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. It utilizes integrated solutions to address root causes of disruption. The "Most Needed" fund targets places where natural disaster or conflicts have resulted in such damage that communities are unlikely to recover on their own. It brings relief after disruption by hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires; or during and after wars like those between Ukraine and Russia and between Israel and Hamas. UMCOR also helps communities reduce the risk of natural disasters and prepare for emergencies, by addressing issues as health, sanitation, poverty, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food security. (Advance #999895)

World Hunger and Poverty: Approximately 2.3 billion people are estimated to suffer from food insecurity or chronic hunger, regularly not getting enough nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. Funding focuses on strengthening the impact of agricultural programs in improving household health, as families and communities learn to create sustainable solutions to food insecurity. (Advance #982920)

You can support communities around the world this holiday season by giving a gift that doesn't fit in boxes or bags.



I would like to give to:

In the amount of:

Cambodia Methodist Mission

Ecuador Methodist Mission

Georgia Applesed Center for Law and Justice

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light

Lost-N-Found Youth

Reconciling Ministries Network

Team Libertad

Trinity Table

West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

Wellroot Youth

Zimbabwe School Support

**Giving through the Advance,
the UMC mission giving channel:**

3021583 - Environmental Sustainability

999895 - UMCOR Where Most Needed

3022499 - World Hunger and Poverty

Donations to other Advance missions may be made directly at the GM/UMCOR site.

Total:

You can support communities around the world this holiday season by delivering a gift on the wings of a dove.



Submitting Selections

If you are mailing with a check, please fill out:

NAME:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

Payment Options

1. Give electronically through Glenn on the [Giving Page](#) or at the QR Code below.
2. Place this form, showing your selections on the reverse side, along with a check in the mail to Glenn Memorial UMC, 1660 North Decatur Road, Atlanta, GA 30307 or put it the offering plate in an envelope marked for Alternative Giving Catalog

Scan to Give

